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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Ed AUSTIN, et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/607,010 Group Art Unit: 3733

FILED: June 26, 2003 EXAMINER: Shaffer, Richard R.

FOR: EXTERNAL FIXATION APPARATUS AND METHOD

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 39262/285776  
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DATE: September 28, 2006

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

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Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the specification and claims and consider the following remarks in response to the Final Office Action mailed August 7, 2006 (the "Action").

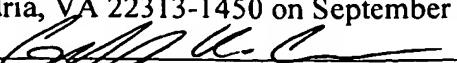
**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 8 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 20 of this paper.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 28, 2006.

  
Geoffrey K. Gavin - Registration No. 47,591